

U.S. Embassy Manama

Demonstration Notice 31 – May 15, 2014

Tomorrow, May 16, 2014, at 4:30pm, opposition groups have called for a sit-in to take place inside Malikiyah village area. Expect increased police activity and heavy traffic. We recommend that you avoid this restricted area from 4:00 pm through the remainder of the day (Orange Oval).

Tomorrow, May 16, 2014, at an unknown time, a violent, illegal opposition group has called for a gathering at the Country Mall RA on the Budaiya Highway. Expect increased police activity in the area and along the Budaiya Highway Corridor (BHC). Clashes may occur in this area. Avoid this area (Yellow Oval).

Saturday, May 17, 2014, at an unknown time, a violent, illegal opposition group has called for protests in the Manama area. The Manama area is defined as Manama Center, Ras Ruman to the east, the northern portion of Salmaniya to the South, Naim and Guffol to the West, and the Manama Souq area to the north. Anticipate that the road networks leading into and around this area will be affected during the early afternoon hours. Expect increased police activity and heavy traffic. Clashes are likely in this area. Downtown Manama road networks may be closed in the morning hours as well. We highly recommend that you avoid travel to the Manama area from the early afternoon through the remainder of the day (Yellow Circle).

Improvised Explosive Device (IED) usage throughout the country continues to take place primarily in the restricted areas and against police forces. Additional IED attacks remain likely. The IEDs have been secreted into areas along certain neighborhood streets and common streets throughout the restricted areas. Avoid areas where the MOI's security forces are gathered due to the threat of likely pending anti-Government of Bahrain (GOB) activities. Do not attempt to drive through or otherwise remove debris strewn across roadways. Use caution and alter your daily routes of travel to avoid known problem areas.

There have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens to date. We recommend that you continually exercise the appropriate level of security awareness in regards to anti-U.S. activity or events. Spontaneous and, at times, violent anti-government of Bahrain protests continue to occur, particularly at night and on weekends. These protests have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and the establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Protestors have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used homemade weapons to include improvised explosive devices and shotgun like projectile launchers. To counter these acts the Ministry of Interior will utilize crowd control measures, such as tear gas, stun grenades, and birdshot. Violent clashes between security forces and protestors can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in certain areas. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays). The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's [website](#), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

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